Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 7.A.2

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolution-Larry J. Schaefer

FOR: AUGUST, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Secretary Frank

SUMMARY:

Larry J. Schaefer retired July 7, 2008, after more than 34 years of service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution for Larry J. Schaefer

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes ☐	Attached

APPROVED:

Regional Director, Scott Humrickhouse — Date

Administrator, — Date

Secretary, Matt Frank — Date 7/9/08

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/3
Colleen Higgins-Eau Claire

Retirement Resolution

Larry Schaefer retired from the Department of Natural Resources on July 7, 2008, after completing more than 34 years of dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin.

Larry began his career with the Department of Natural Resources on July 3, 1977 as a Natural Resource Specialist. Larry transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked as a public health sanitarian out of their Eau Claire Office. Larry maintained this position until February 11, 1990 when he grasped the opportunity to join the management ranks and was selected to become an Environmental Program Supervisor 4 in charge of the Regional Drinking and Groundwater Management team.

As Larry's time and expertise grew so did his opportunities with the Department. He reclassified quickly to the Program Supervisor 5 ranks and was again reallocated to a Water Supply Manager in April of 1992. Larry was recognized for his outstanding work throughout this time period. Larry would continue to work under this title for the next five years until his position was reclassified as the result of the Department's reorganization in 1996 – 97. Larry demonstrated true team spirit and agreed to accept the resulting role of Drinking and Groundwater Program Expert for the West Central Region.

Over the next 7 years, Larry continued to establish himself Statewide as a leader in the Drinking and Groundwater Program. With limited direct authority over staff operations, he was able to use his skills as a leader to influence program outcomes and was the key to Regional success in accomplishing the Drinking and Groundwater mission. Larry got his chance again to supervise staff when in 2006 the Water Division restructured to give more autonomy and cohesion to their statewide programs. Larry applied for and was successful in being appointed to a Natural Resources Region Program Manager position as the Regional Drinking and Groundwater Supervisor. This career executive position was well deserved and gave Larry another opportunity to make a positive mark on the program regionally, as well as statewide.

Larry Schaefer was a very experienced and knowledgeable employee. He was dedicated and well respected by others and his contributions to Regional and Statewide program operations are greatly appreciated. As an outstanding model for Natural Resources Program Managers within the organization, he has dedicated his career to public health and safety, always been a supervisor that puts staff needs and support ahead of his own needs, such as developing work groups within the statewide program teams, demonstrating leadership, serving as the *de facto* drinking water expert for the Northern Region and as an acting basin leader in West Central Region. Larry's many important contributions have been vital to the effective operation of the regional and statewide water management teams.

WHEREAS, the dedication and commitment of Larry J. Schaefer has earned him the respect of the public, his co-workers, supervisors and associates throughout the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its August 2008 meeting at Platteville, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

Christine Thomas, CHAIR